

Air Force and state officials break ground at Rome site

by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — Air Force and New York State officials signaled a new era in information technology research and development recently with groundbreaking ceremonies for a \$23.8 Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate Research Facility.

The new facility at Griffiss Business & Technology Park will be the centerpiece of a unique, Congressionally approved partnership between the Air Force and New York State.

New York Governor George Pataki and Brig. Gen. David M. Cannan, command civil engineer for Air Force Materiel Command, were the principal participants in the ceremonies. The consolidation project is the result of joint funding and support by the Air Force Military Construction Program and the state's Empire State Development Corp.

"This partnership is truly unique," said General Cannan, who expressed gratitude to the state and local community leaders involved with bringing the plan to fruition. Pataki described the project as "another step in the rebirth of the Mohawk Valley" that holds potential for spin-off jobs in high technology industries.

The new building, scheduled for completion in October 2002, is the second phase of a consolidation plan that will result in a state-of-the-art laboratory and research facility. The first phase of the program calls for the demolition of approximately 200,000 square feet of space in the east wing and "headhouse," or front portion, of Building 2, a sprawling World War II era warehouse. The west wing of the structure has been remodeled and occupied by directorate support offices as a result of the 1993 Base Realignment and Closure



THE NEWEST WORKPLACE — Pictured is an artist's concept of the new facility at Griffiss Business & Technology Park. The facility will be the centerpiece of a unique, Congressionally approved partnership between the Air Force and New York State.

Commission decision on the former Griffiss AFB.

Consolidation will create a building complex housing the Information Directorate's technical divisions. That complex, along with the existing Building 106, will become the principle area of directorate operations. The directorate will vacate three existing buildings located about a half mile from the proposed core area. In addition, security personnel will relocate from current facilities in a fourth building.

Approximately 115,000 square feet of new space will enhance research collaboration among the directorate staff. The project cost also includes modifications to the existing Building 3 and site enhancements. @